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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 002729

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/05/2012

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [PGOV](#) [IT](#) [MW](#) [SR](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: MFA VIEW ON POSSIBLE INDICTMENT OF DJUKANOVIC

REF: A) ROME 2660 B) BELGRADE 1399 C) BELGRADE 1371

CLASSIFIED BY: POL MC TOM COUNTRYMAN. REASON:1.5 (B)(D)

[1](#)1. (C) AS PROMISED REF A, POLOFF FOLLOWED UP WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE MFA'S BALKAN OFFICE, MARIZIO MASSARI, TO
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REGISTER THE MINISTRY'S VIEWS ON THE NEW INVESTIGATION AND POSSIBLE INDICTMENT OF MONTENEGRIN PRESIDENT DJUKANOVIC BY THE ANTI-MAFIA PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IN BARI, GIUSEPPE SCELSI, ON CHARGES OF MAFIA CONSPIRACY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN CONTRABAND CIGARETTES.

[1](#)2. (C) MASSARI CONFIRMED REPORTS IN REFTELS THAT THE MFA HAD NO PRIOR WARNING OF THE INVESTIGATION, NOR HAD IT BEEN CONSULTED ON THE QUESTION OF IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION FOR DJUKANOVIC. HE SURMISED THAT IF THERE WERE ANY POLITICAL ANGLE TO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS LONG RUNNING STORY, THEY WOULD BE TIED TO INTERNAL ITALIAN POLITICS, NOT TO ANY ATTEMPT BY THE GOI TO UNDERMINE DJUKANOVIC. THE GOI IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE EU BROKERED AGREEMENT BETWEEN PODGORICA AND BELGRADE TO KEEP MONTENEGRO IN THE FEDERATION, CONTINUED MASSARI, AND UNDERMINING DJUKANOVIC'S CREDIBILITY WITH A CRIMINAL INDICTMENT WOULD NOT, OBVIOUSLY, SERVE THAT END.

[1](#)3. (C) WHEN PRESSED ON THE INTERNAL POLITICAL FACTORS THAT COULD BE DRIVING THE TIMING OF THE INVESTIGATION, MASSARI SPECULATED THAT IT COULD BE AN ATTEMPT BY THE "LEFT-LEANING" SCELSI TO "CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT" TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. MASSARI SAID THAT IT WAS NOT A COINCIDENCE THAT DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION WERE ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES (TRADE) ADOLFO URSO'S VISIT TO PODGORICA, DURING WHICH HE PRAISED MONTENEGRO'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING.
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